

VZCZCXYZ0007
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHWN #0856 1801902
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 291902Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY 1504
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5031

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000856

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OTRA](#) [OVIP](#) [BB](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO AMBASSADOR ROBINSON
FOR TRAVEL TO BARBADOS

REF: GEORGETOWN 00639

¶1. Embassy Bridgetown warmly welcomes and grants clearance to Ambassador David M. Robinson to travel to Barbados from June 30, 2007 through July 2, 2007, for the purpose of attending the 28th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

¶2. The control officer for Ambassador Robinson's visit is Anthony Eterno. Mr. Eterno can be reached by telephone at (W) 246/227-4273, (C) 246/823-3104, (H) 246/421-8882, or by email at EternoAR@state.gov. Ambassador Robinson will be met upon arrival in Bridgetown by Mr. Eterno and an Embassy vehicle.

¶3. Entry/departure requirements: Mission policy is that all USG travelers to the region be in possession of a valid passport. Visas are not required for short visits. Visitors are granted up to 28 days upon entry, which can be extended through the Barbados Immigration Department for up to six months.

¶4. The exchange rate in Barbados is two Barbados dollars for one U.S. dollar. U.S. currency, traveler's checks, and credit cards are routinely and widely accepted.

¶5. The following is general information pertaining to security and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines the

major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito.

Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

GILROY